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THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE

Fantastic Four

INFERNO
CONTINUES

SEE:
THE HUMAN TORCH
ALONE AGAINST THE
CRUSHING POWER OF
GRAVITON!



THE FABULOUS FF ENTER THE INFERNO--
AS STAN LEE PRESENTS--

BETWEEN A *ROCK* and a HARD place!



STEVE
ENGLEHART
STORY

KEITH
POLLARD
PENCILS

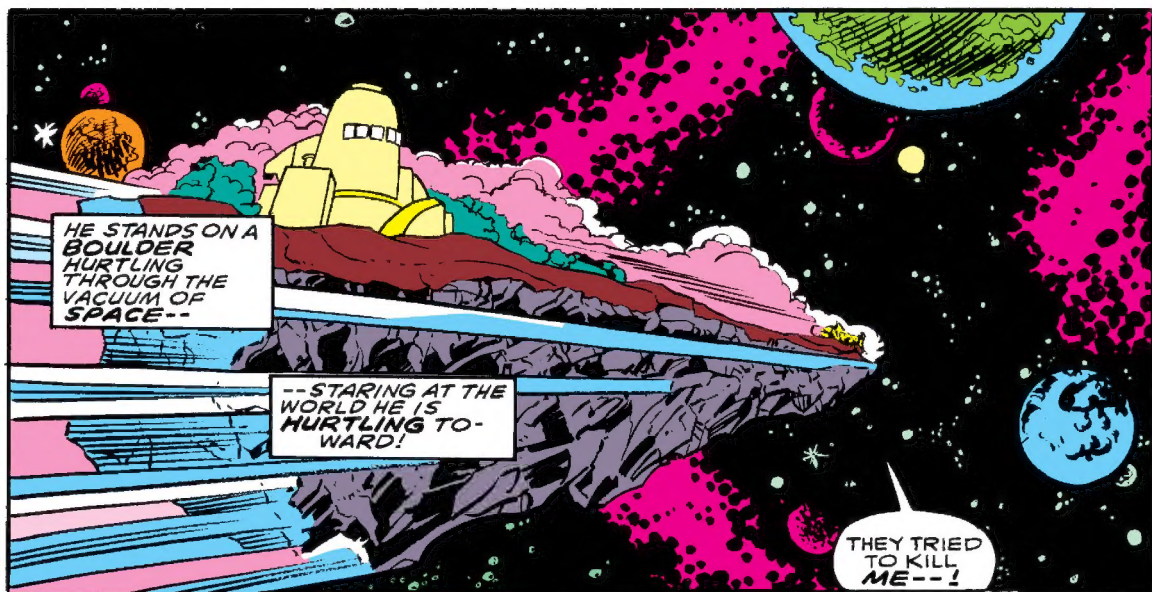
JOE
SINNOTT
FINISHES

JOHN
WORKMAN
LETTERS

GEORGE
ROUSSOS
COLORS

RALPH
MACCHIO
EDITOR

TOM
DeFALCO
CHIEF



HE STANDS ON A BOULDER HURLING THROUGH THE VACUUM OF SPACE--

--STARING AT THE WORLD HE IS HURLING TOWARD!

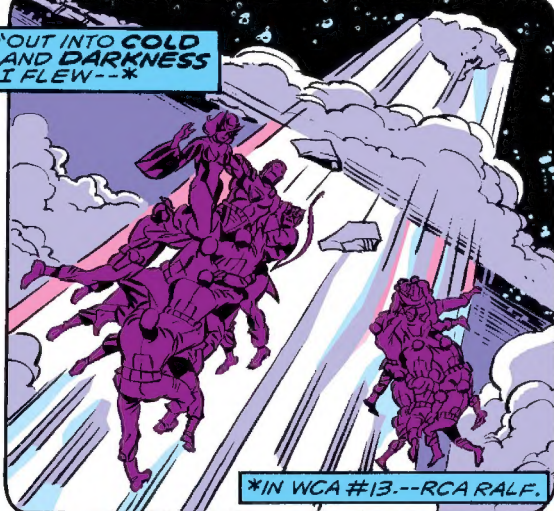
THEY TRIED TO KILL ME--!



"THE WEST COAST AVENGERS--THEY CAUSED ME TO LOSE CONTROL OF MY FORCE--

"--INSTEAD OF ORBITING THE PLANET EARTH, MY BASE WAS REPELLED FROM IT!

"OUT INTO COLD AND DARKNESS I FLEW--*



*IN WCA #13.--RCA RALF.



"--ONLY MOMENTS TO REGAIN ENOUGH CONTROL--

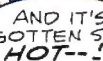
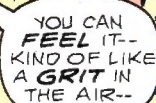
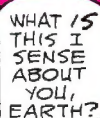
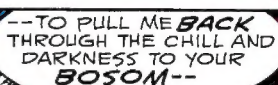
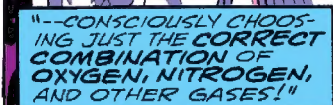
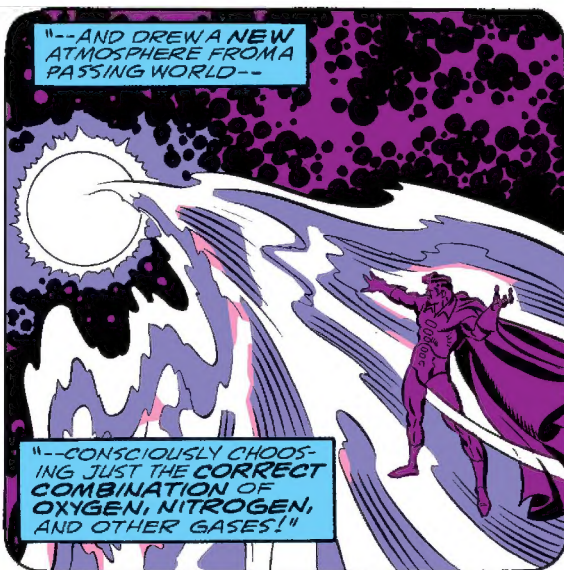


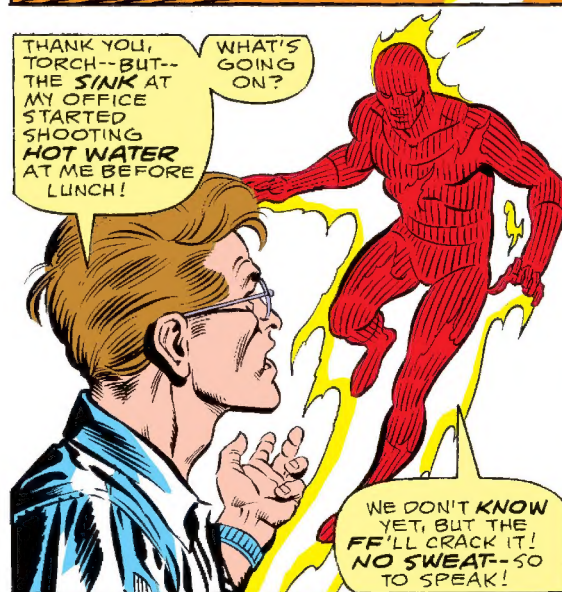
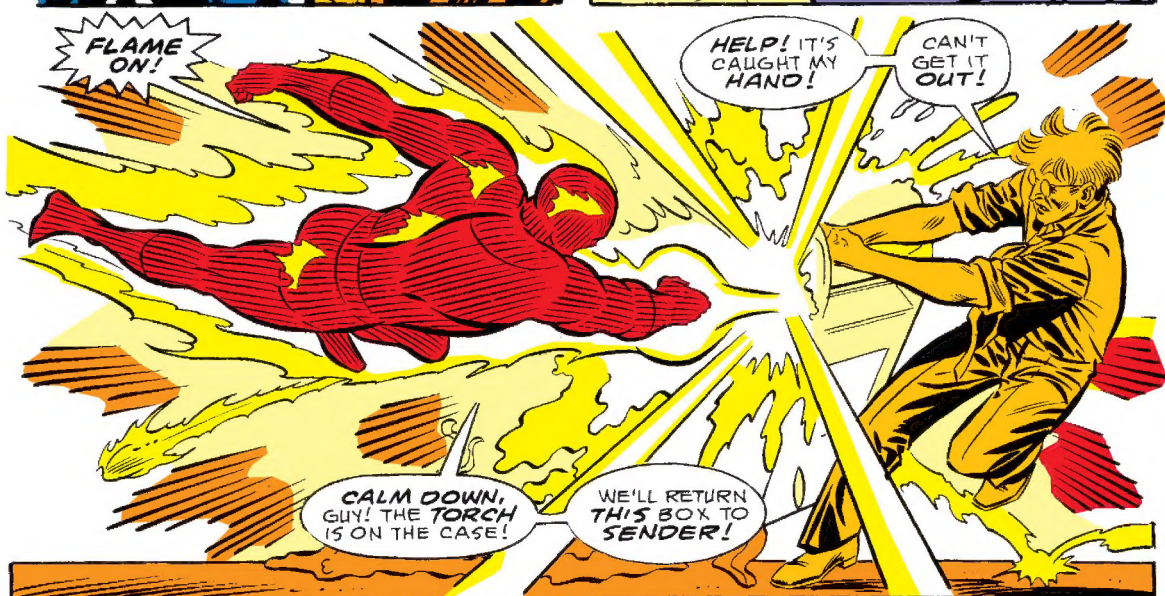
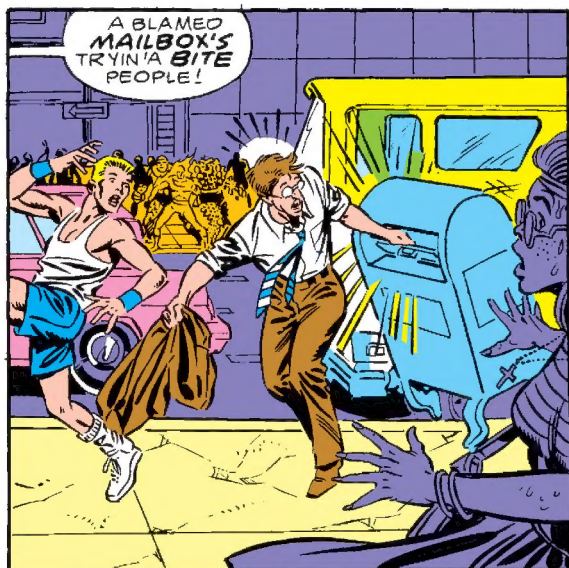
"--TO DRAG THE DENSITY AND TEMPERATURE OF EVERYTHING DOWN--

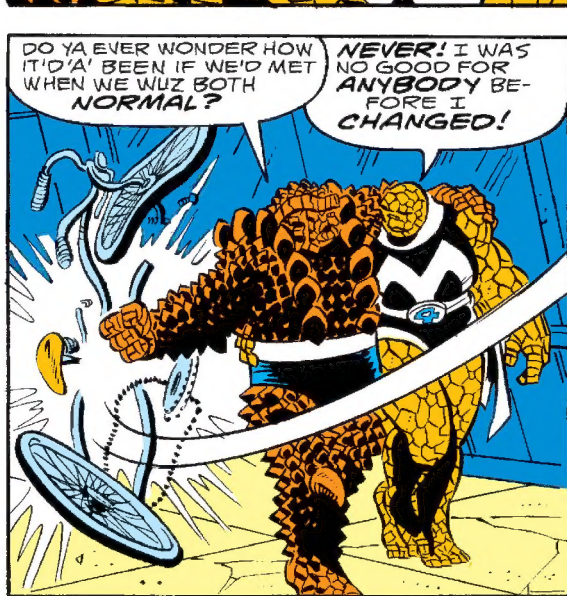
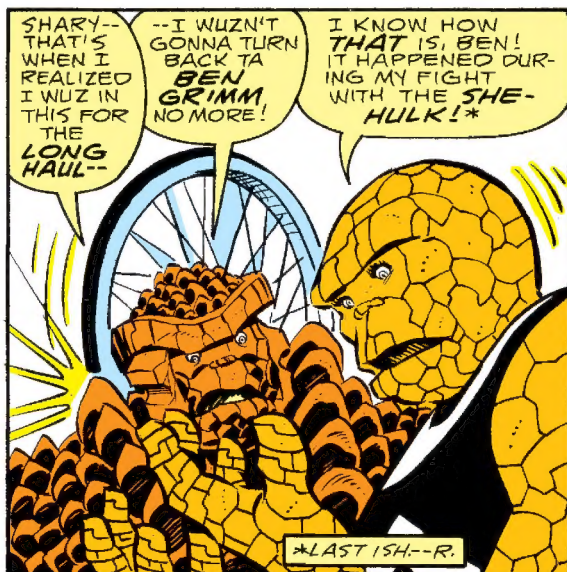
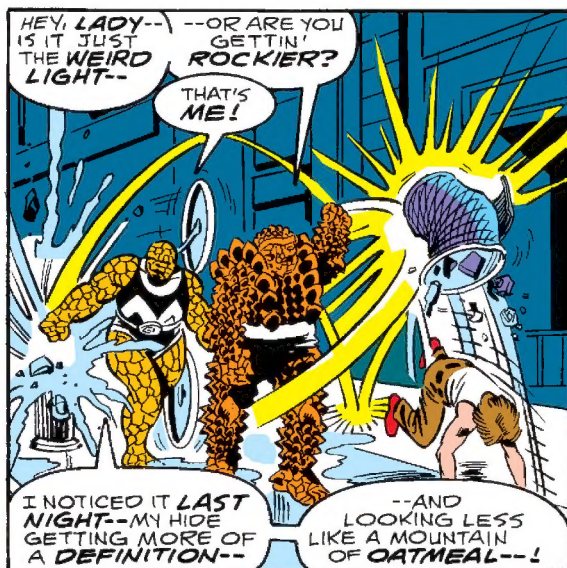
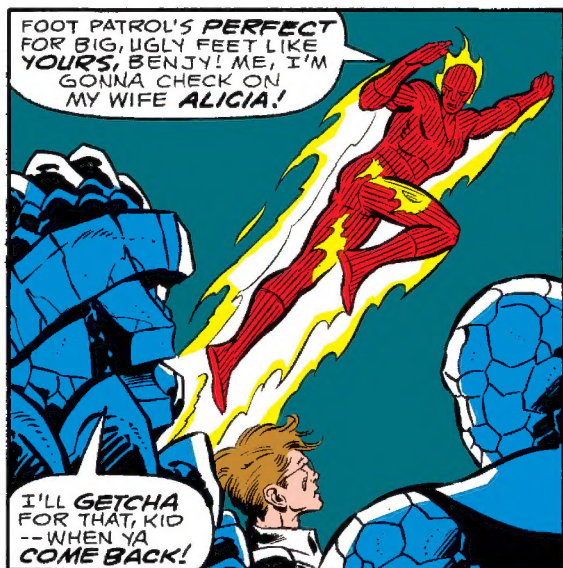
"--TO PUT EVERYTHING IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION--



"--UNTIL I COULD REGAIN EVERY BIT OF MY CONTROL!"







I LIKE THIS BODY, BEN! IT'S NOT PRETTY, BUT IT'S NOT COMPLICATED, EITHER!

I WAS RAISED TO BE A HARD CHARGER -- MY DAD WAS ONE, AND MY MOM WAS NO LONGER WITH US!



DAD WANTED A SON, AND DIDN'T GET ONE -- SO HIS DAUGHTER HAD TO PUT OTHER MEN'S SONS TO SHAME!



AND THEN I GOT TO START OVER -- FROM SCRATCH! AS THE SHE-THING!

I WAS IN NO MOOD TO SEE IT AT FIRST, BUT I CAN SEE IT NOW --

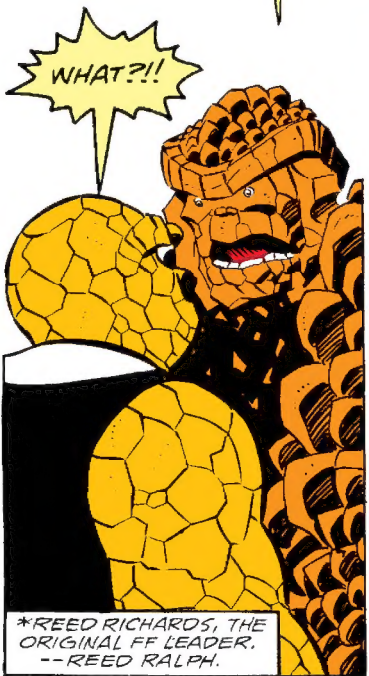
-- JUST THE WAY I SEE THE FIRST MAN I COULD EVER RELATE TO!



HONEY... I LOVE YOU...

... 'AN BECAUSE I LOVE YA, I'VE GOTTA TELL YA SOMETHIN'!

REED SAYS THERE'S A WAY YA CAN TURN BACK!*



WHAT?!!

*REED RICHARDS, THE ORIGINAL FF LEADER. -- REED RALPH.

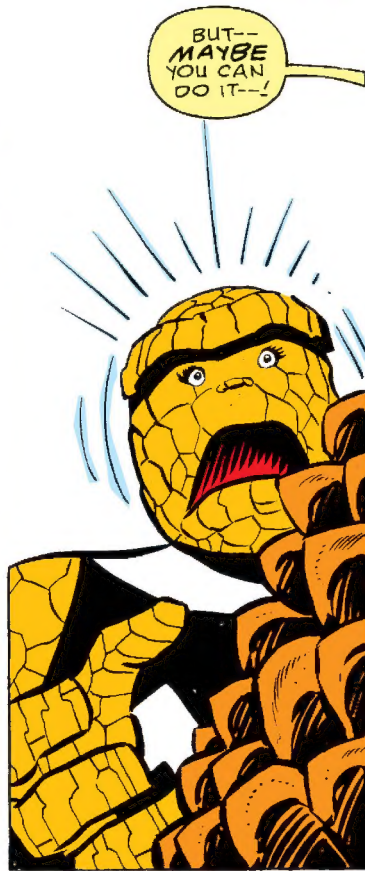
REED SEZ I HAD THE ABILITY TA CHANGE BACK WHENEVER I WANTED, ONLY I WUZ AFRAID ALICIA WUZ ONLY IN LOVE WITH THE THING, SO I BLOCKED IT!

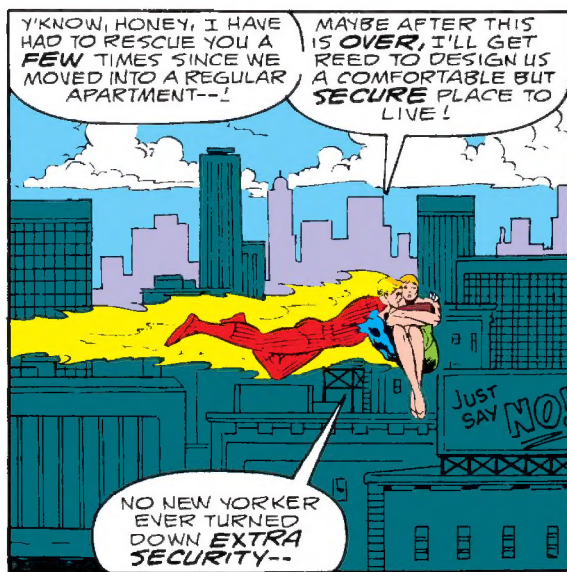
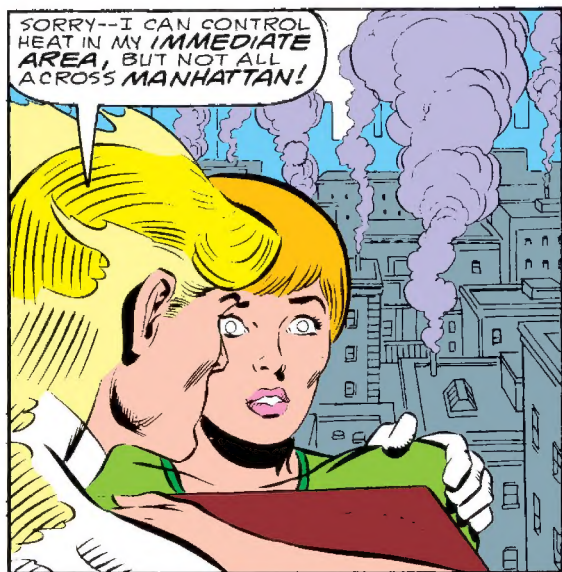
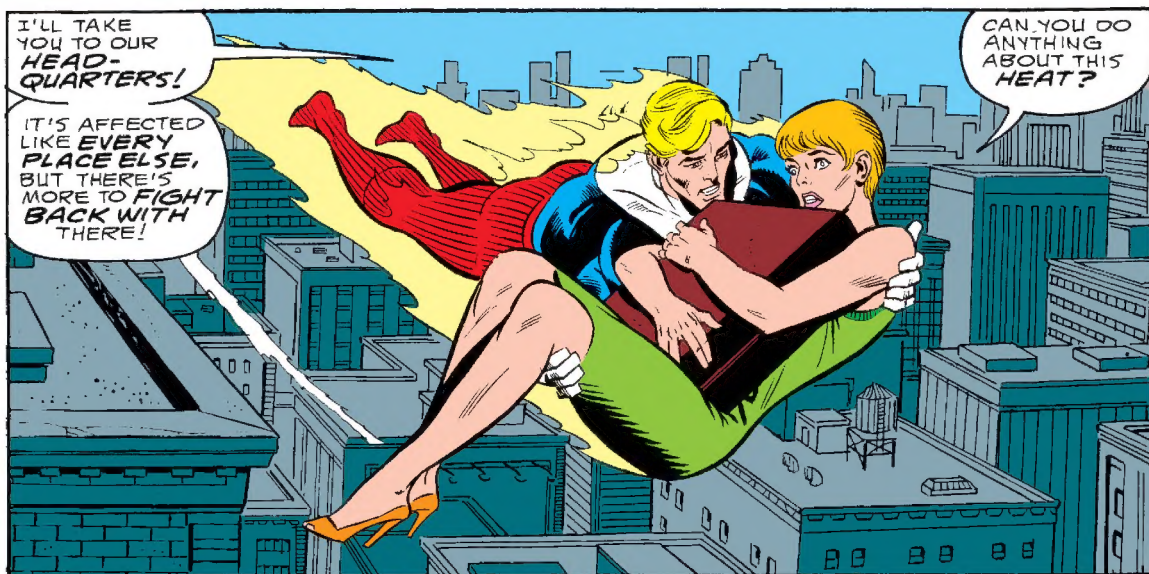
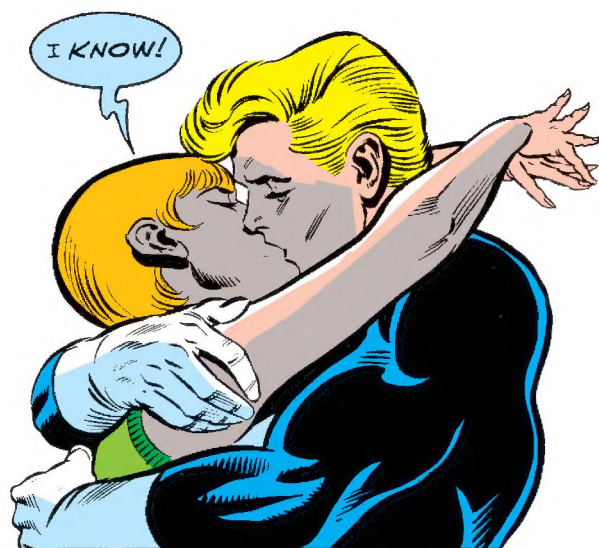
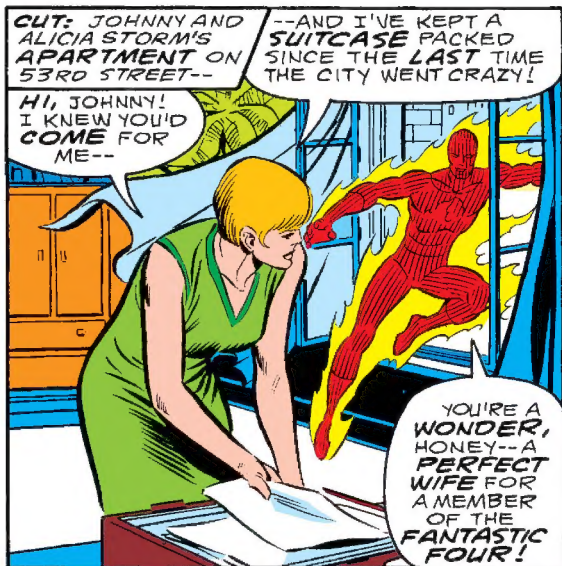
I TELL YA -- I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THAT'S WHY I NEVER SAID NOTHIN' TO YA!

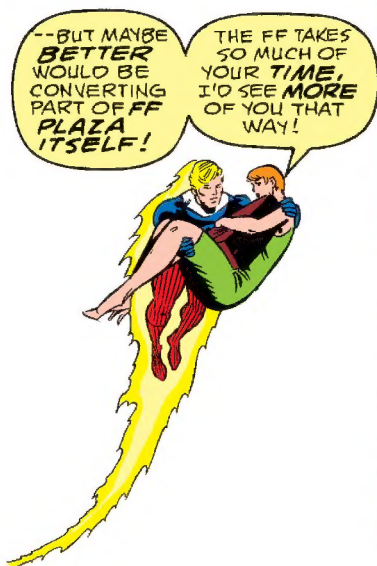


REED'S GOT IT ALL FIGGERED OUT, BUT I LIVED IT AN' I KNOW I WOULD'A TURNED BACK IF I COULDA!

BUT -- MAYBE YOU CAN DO IT --!

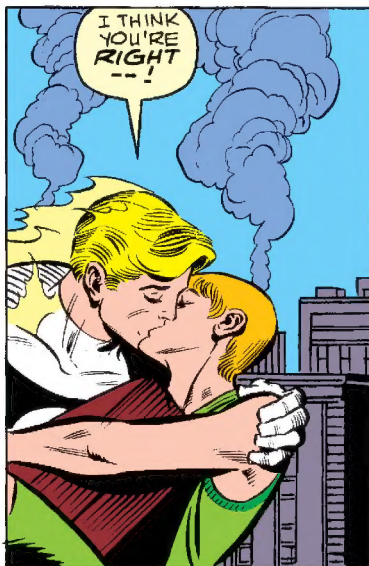






--BUT MAYBE BETTER WOULD BE CONVERTING PART OF FF PLAZA ITSELF!

THE FF TAKES SO MUCH OF YOUR TIME, I'D SEE MORE OF YOU THAT WAY!

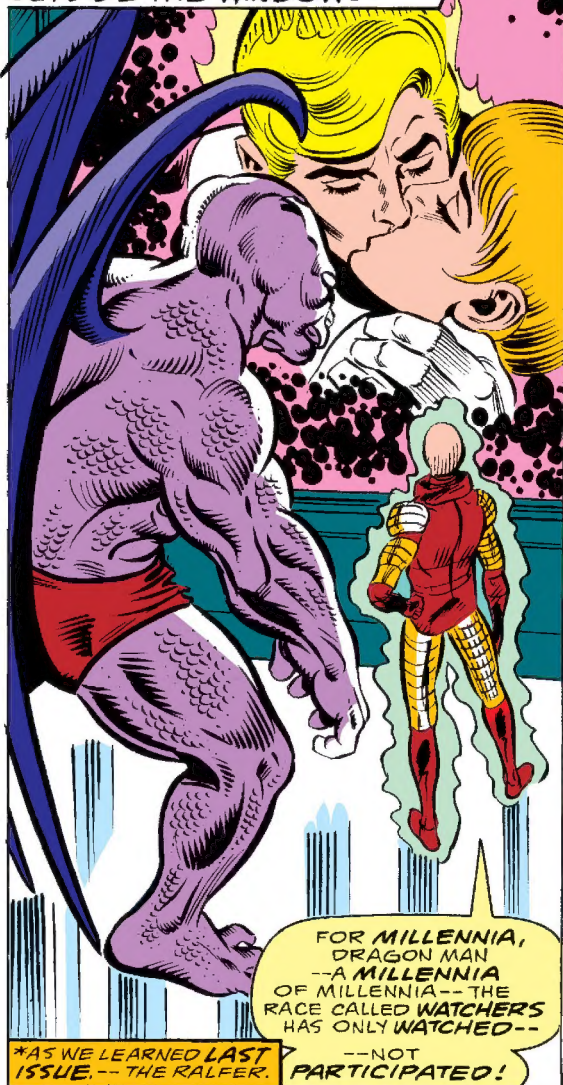


I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT --!



NOW, THIS SEMI-TENDER SCENE TAKES PLACE 19 BLOCKS NORTH OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING...

... BUT TO ONE PAIR OF EYES ON THE 100TH FLOOR THERE, IT'S AS CLEAR AS IF IT WERE RIGHT OUTSIDE THE WINDOW!*



FOR MILLENNIA, DRAGON MAN --A MILLENNIA OF MILLENNIA-- THE RACE CALLED WATCHERS HAS ONLY WATCHED--

--NOT PARTICIPATED!

*AS WE LEARNED LAST ISSUE -- THE RALFER.



IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR THIS WATCHER!

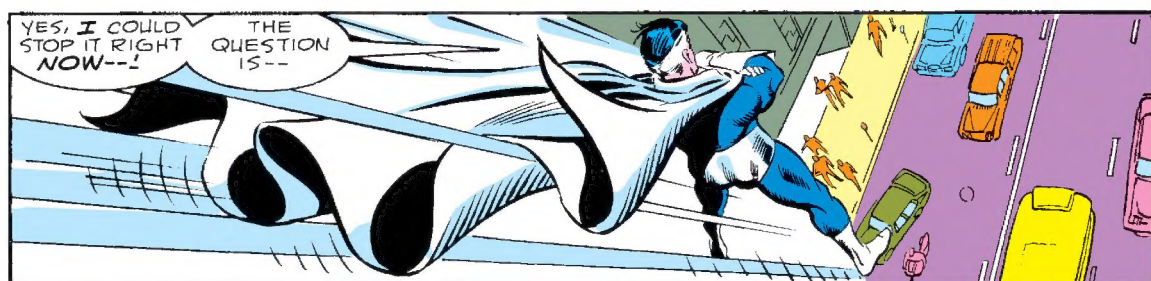
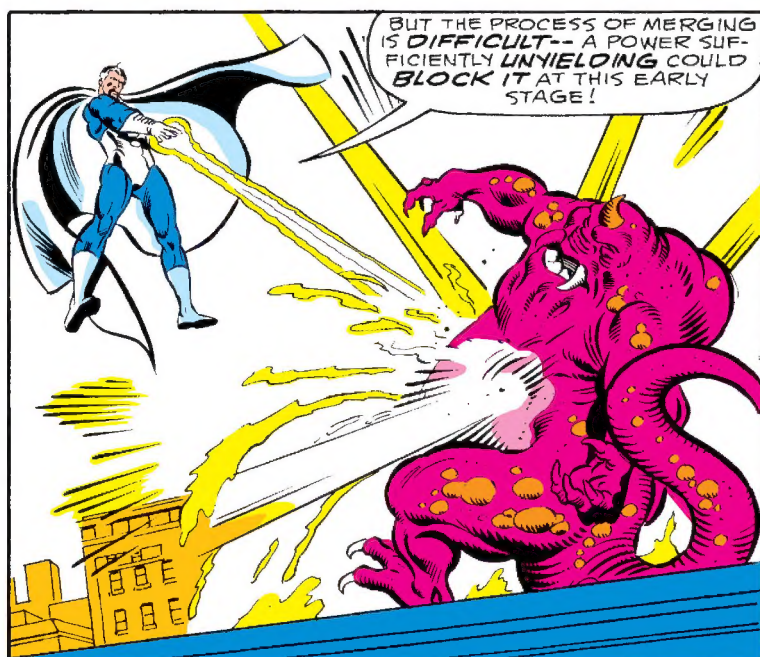
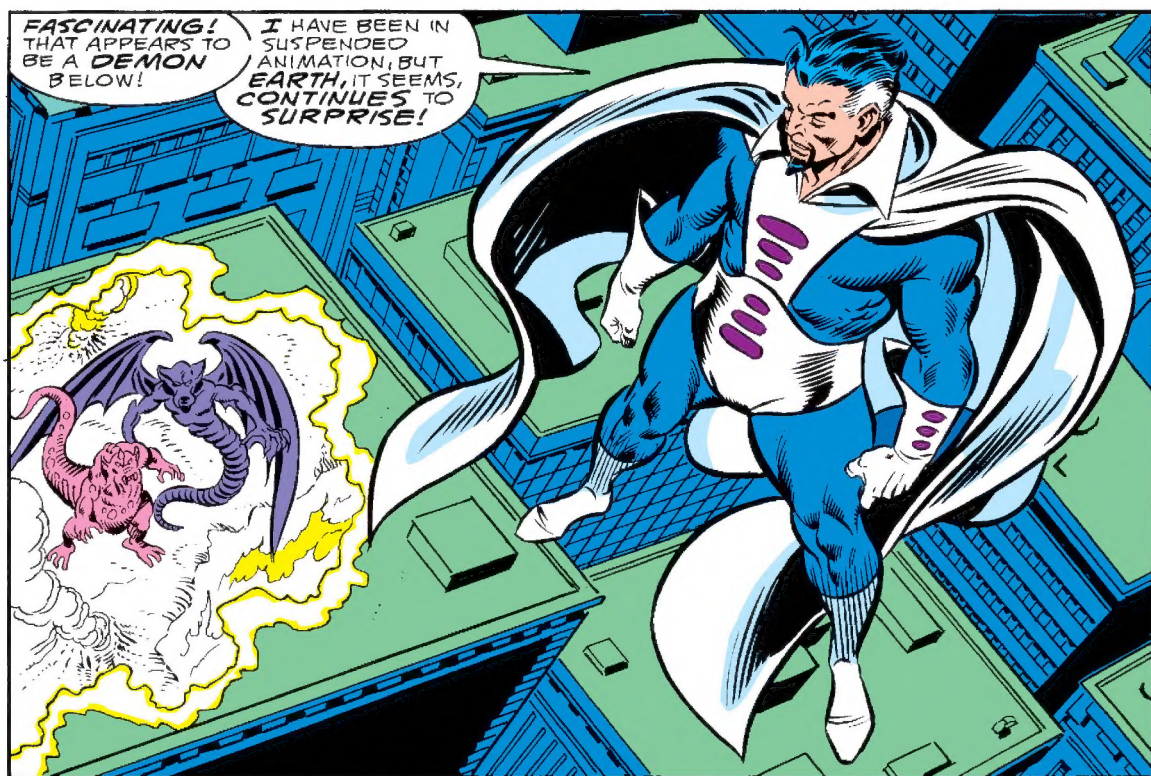
I HAVE A PLAN, AND I AM CARRYING IT OUT!

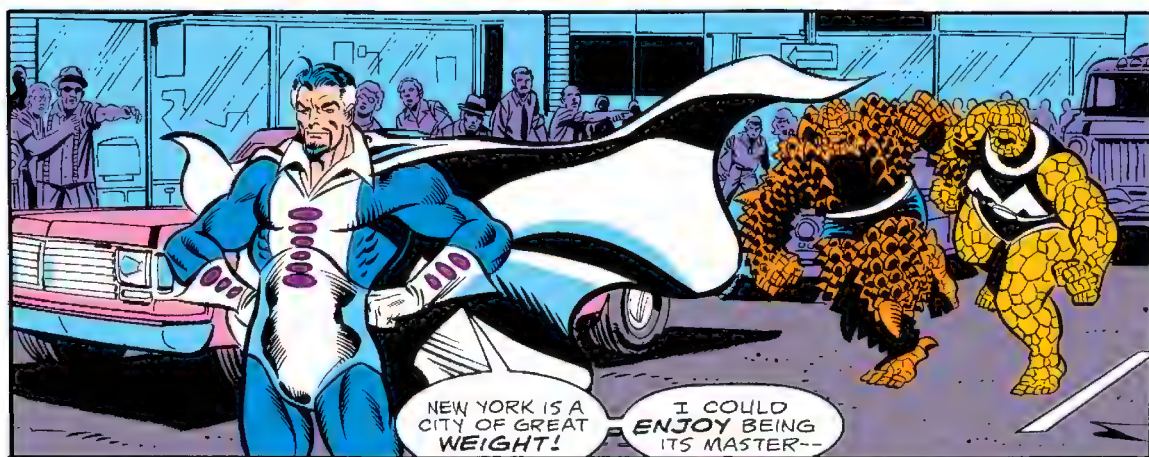
THUS FAR I HAVE GATHERED CELL SCRAPINGS FROM THE THING AND MS. MARVEL--

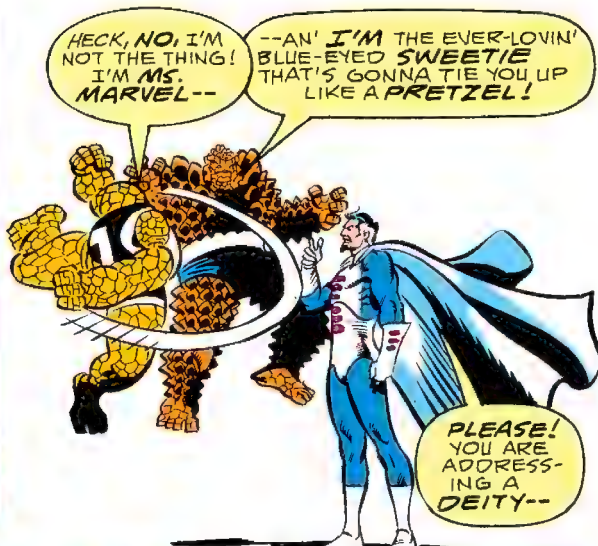
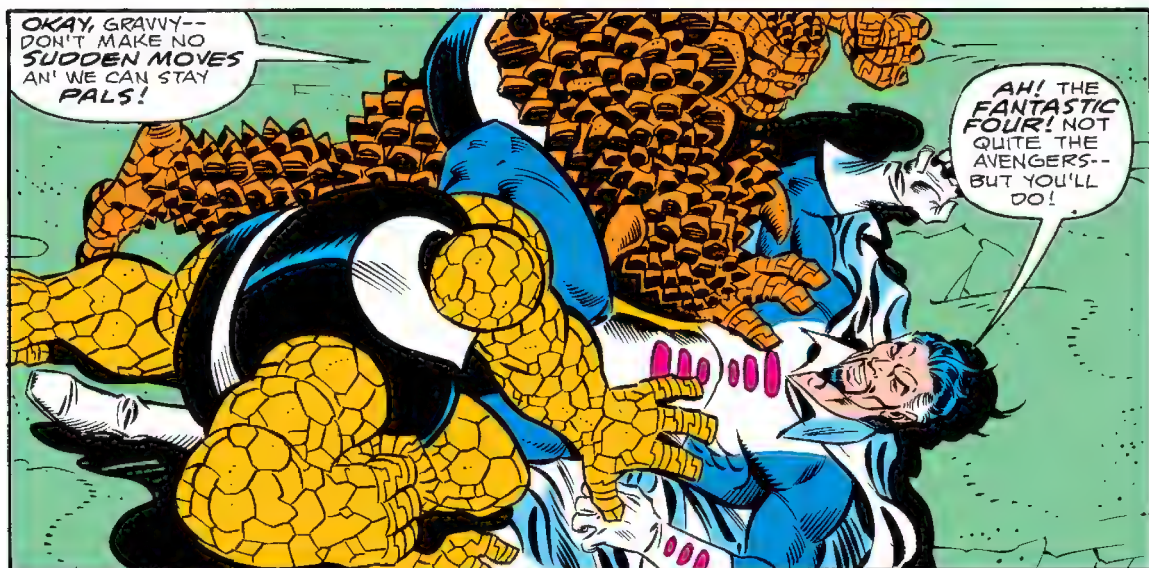


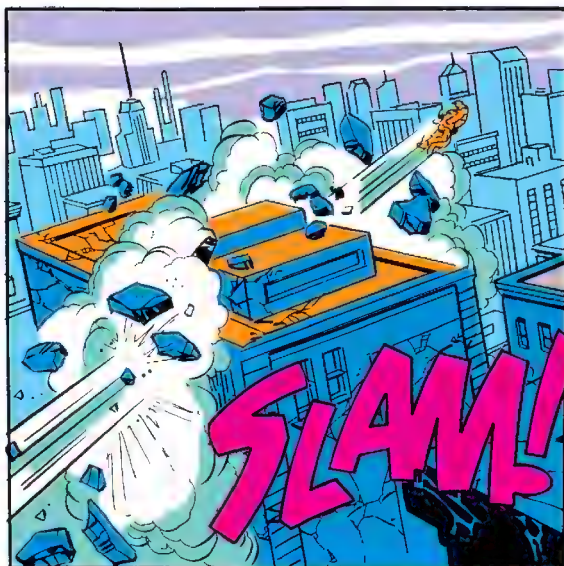
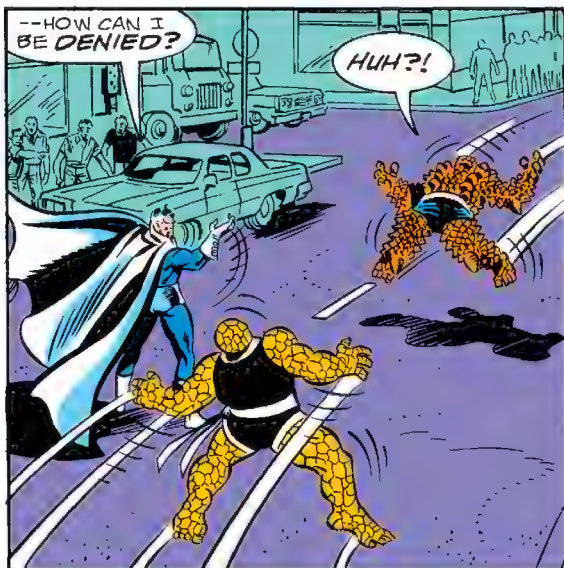
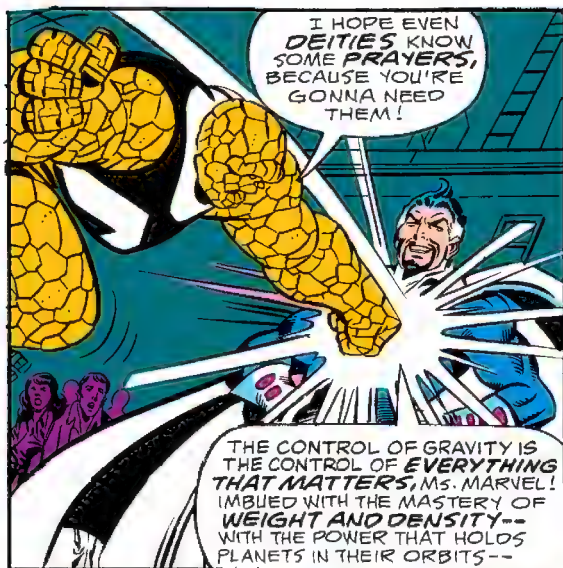
--AND AS SOON AS I OBTAIN SCRAPINGS FROM THE TORCH'S SKIN, UNDERNEATH HIS FLAME, I WILL HAVE SUCH POWER--

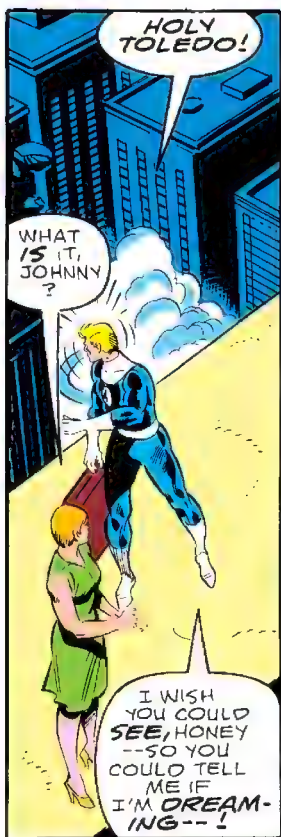
HOLD! WHAT IS THIS I NOW SEE--?











HOLY TOLEDO!

WHAT IS IT, JOHNNY?

I WISH YOU COULD SEE, HONEY --SO YOU COULD TELL ME IF I'M DREAMING--!



WHAT IS ALL YOUR POWER IF YOU'VE NO PLACE TO BRACE YOURSELVES?

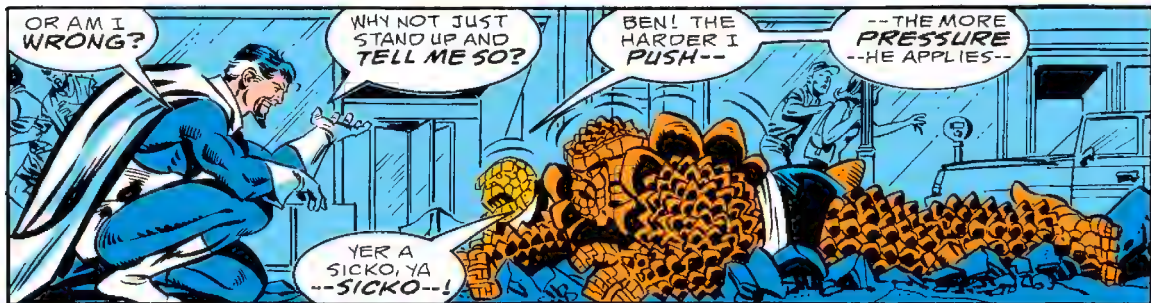
PHYSICS PROVIDES A SIMPLE ANSWER-- AND THE ANSWER IS 'NOTHING'!!!



NEW THING --OLD THING--

--YOU ARE NO-THING!!

KRAM!



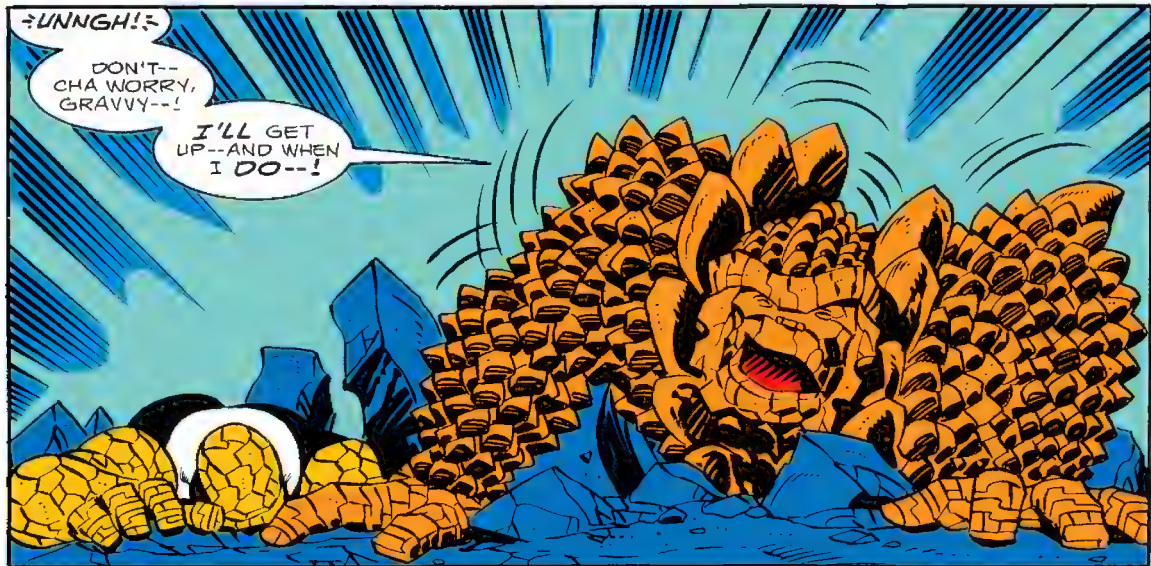
OR AM I WRONG?

WHY NOT JUST STAND UP AND TELL ME SO?

BEN! THE HARDER I PUSH--

--THE MORE PRESSURE --HE APPLIES--

YER A SICKO, YA --SICKO--!



UNNGH!~

DON'T-- CHA WORRY, GRAVY--!

I'LL GET UP--AND WHEN I DO--!



DON'T SWEAT IT, BENJY!

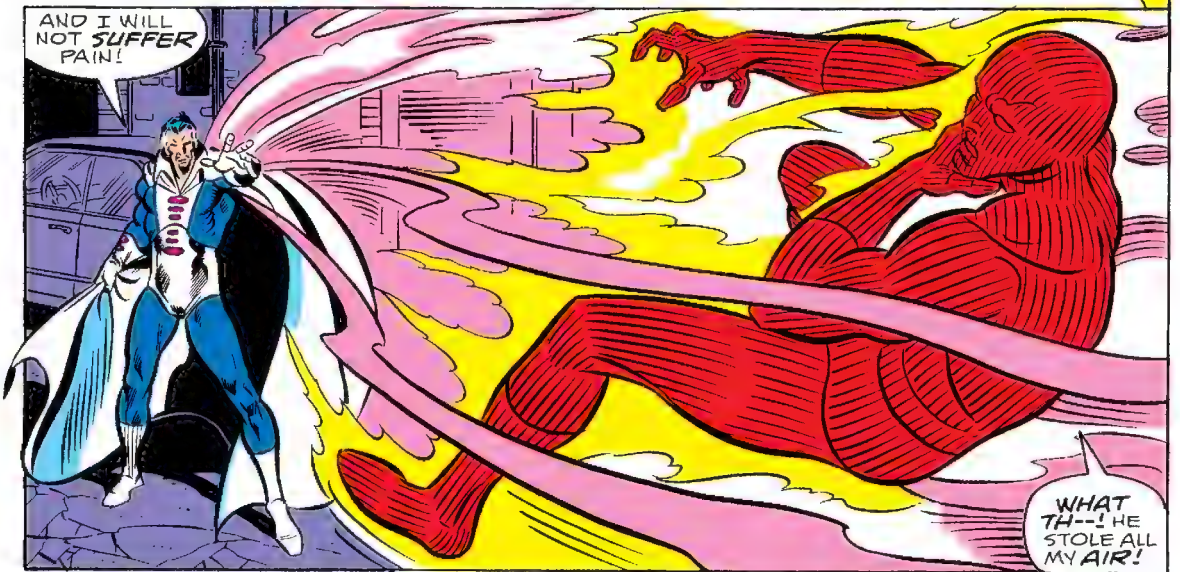
THIS GUY'S MINE!

THE HUMAN TORCH!



~ARRRRHH!~

THE DENSITY OF MY SKIN PRECLUDES MY CATCHING FIRE, BUT THE SHEER HEAT OF HIS ATTACK CAUSES ME PAIN!



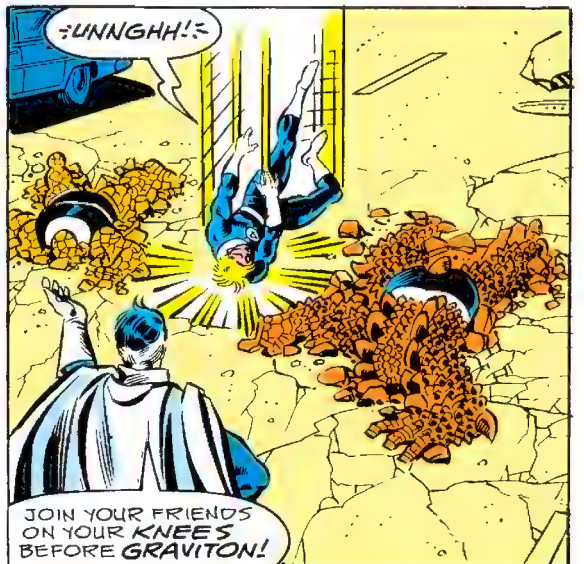
AND I WILL NOT SUFFER PAIN!

WHAT TH--! HE STOLE ALL MY AIR!



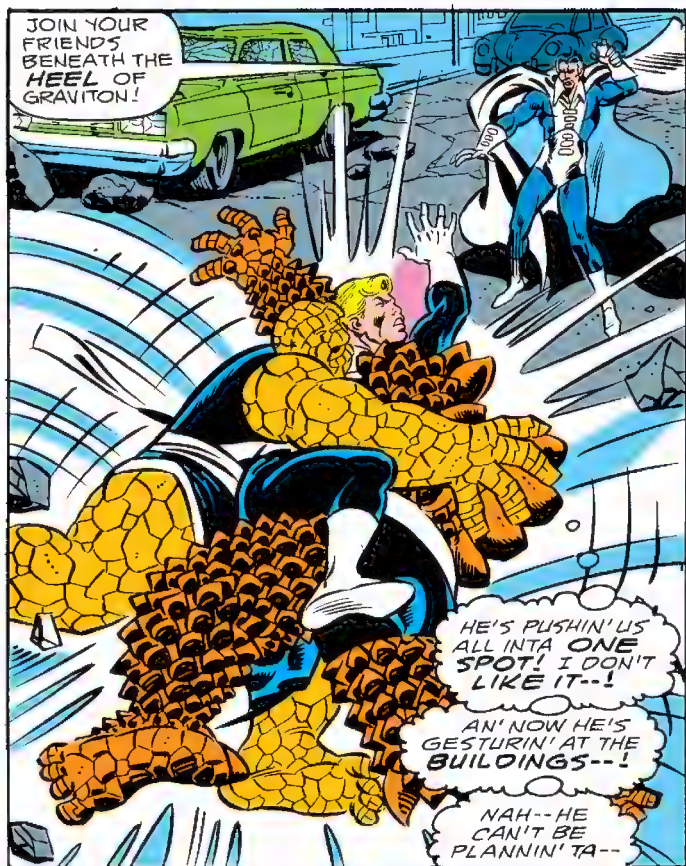
WITHOUT AIR, I CAN'T STAY AFLAME!

CAN'T FLY--!



~UNNGHH!~

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS ON YOUR KNEES BEFORE GRAVITON!



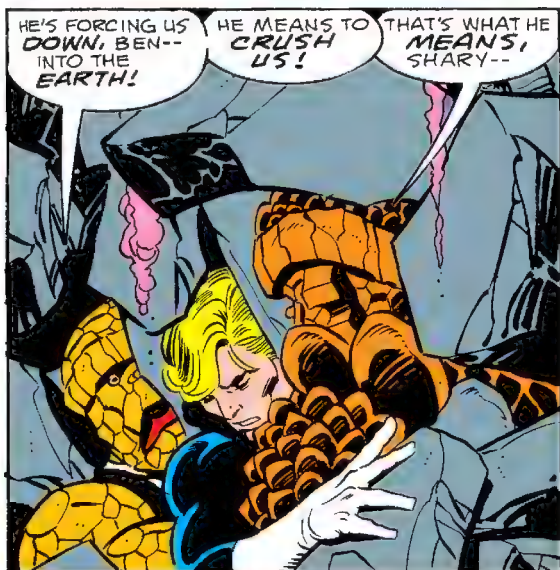


THUS DIE THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR!

WITNESS IT, CITIZENS!
A CLASSIC TRIUMPH
BY THE GOD OF
GRAVITY! YOUR GOD OF
GRAVITY!

NOW--WHAT WILL YOU
OFFER ME TO SAVE
YOU FROM THE
DEVILRY HERE--?

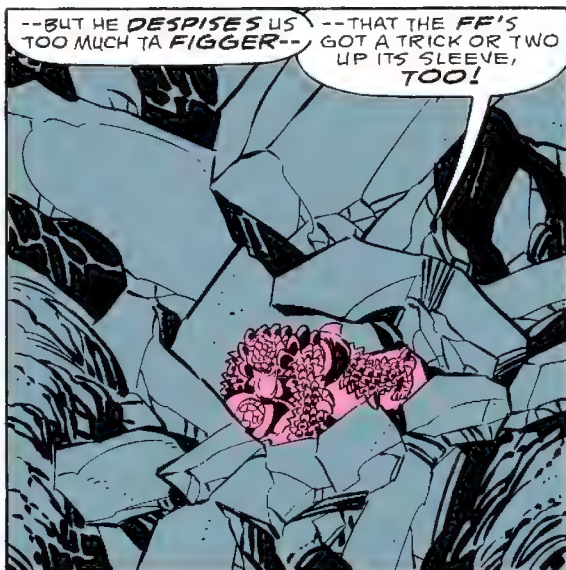
HOW MAY YOUR ONE TRUE
GOD RESTORE THE ORDER
TO YOUR LIVES WHICH IS
AS NATURAL TO THEM...
AS GRAVITY ITSELF?



HE'S FORCING US
DOWN, BEN--
INTO THE
EARTH!

HE MEANS TO
CRUSH
US!

THAT'S WHAT HE
MEANS,
SHARY--



--BUT HE *DESPISES* US
TOO MUCH TA FIGGER--

--THAT THE FF'S
GOT A TRICK OR TWO
UP ITS SLEEVE,
TOO!



PRESS BACK,
HONEY-- GIVE IT
EV'RYTHIN' YA
GOT!



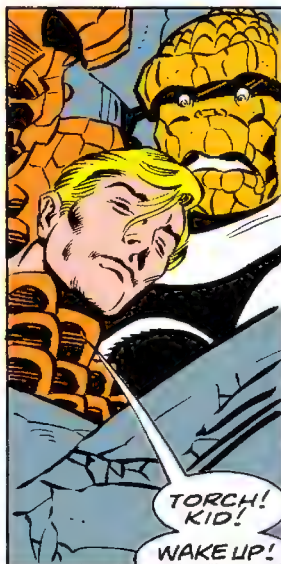
DON'T LET THE
PRESSURE
CLOSE IN ON
JOHNNY!

THE WAY--
GRAVITON
PUSHED US
TOGETHER--

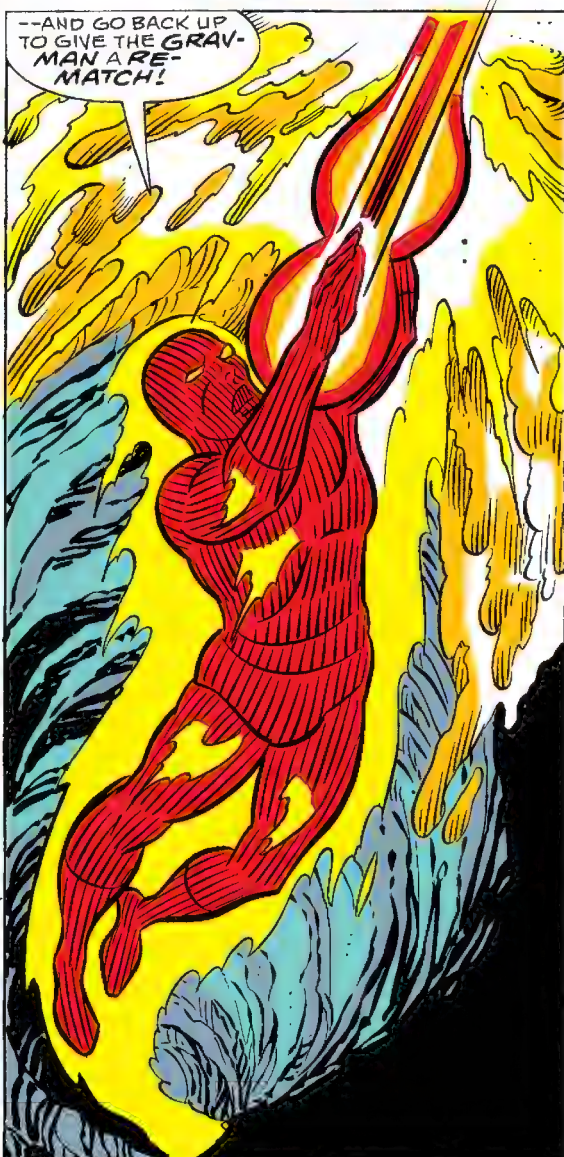
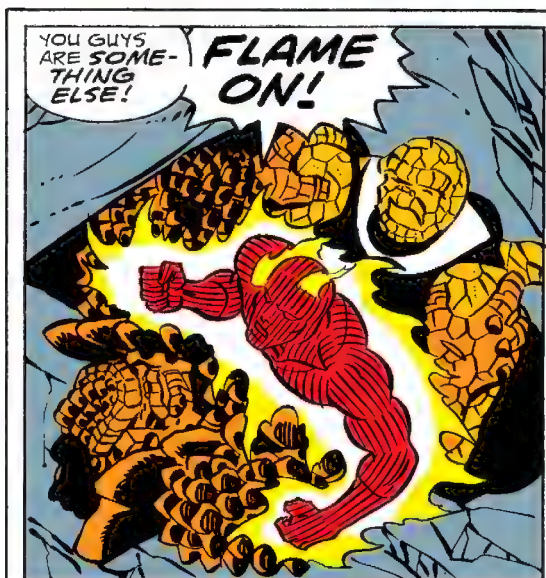
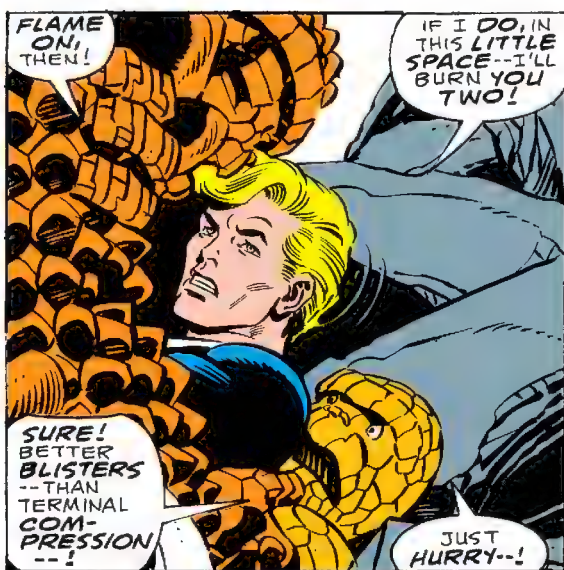
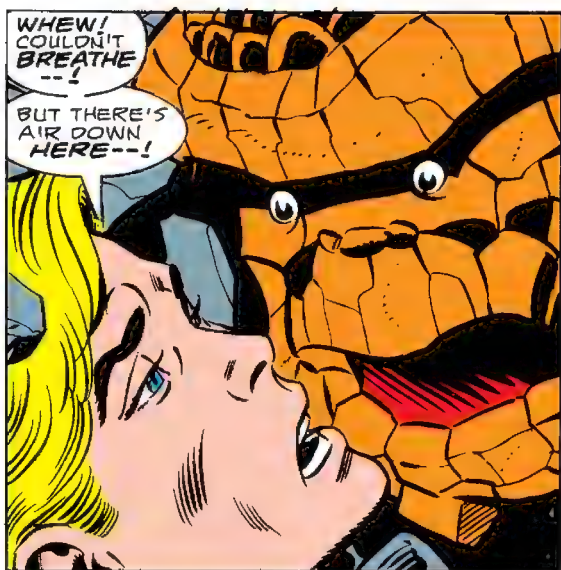
--YOU AND I--
WOULD BE THE
ONES--TO CRUSH
HIM--

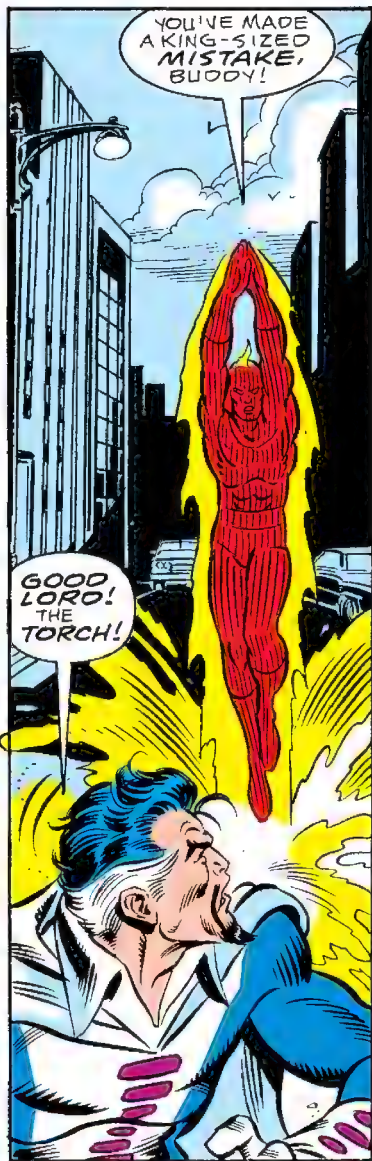
RIGHT! BUT
THAT'S--NEVER
GONNA HAPPEN!

I'LL NEVER
HURT--MY
BUDDY!



TORCH!
KID!
WAKE UP!





YOU'VE MADE A KING-SIZED MISTAKE, BUDDY!

GOOD LORD!
THE TORCH!



BUT THE ONLY MISTAKE HERE IS, YOU'VE FAILED TO ACCEPT THE IN-EVITABLE!

I CAN SUCK YOUR AIR AWAY FROM YOU AS EASILY NOW AS BEFORE!

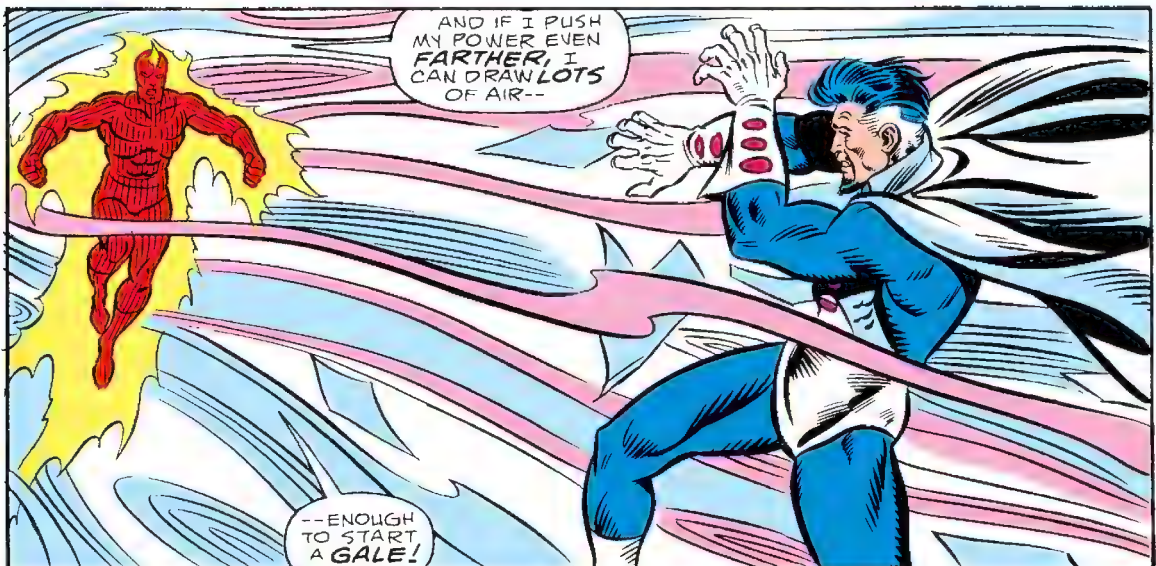


THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG! I'D NEVER FOUGHT A POWER LIKE YOURS BEFORE, BUT I LEARN LIKE A HOUSE AFIRE!

IF I PUSH MY FLAME POWER TO A HIGHER LEVEL--

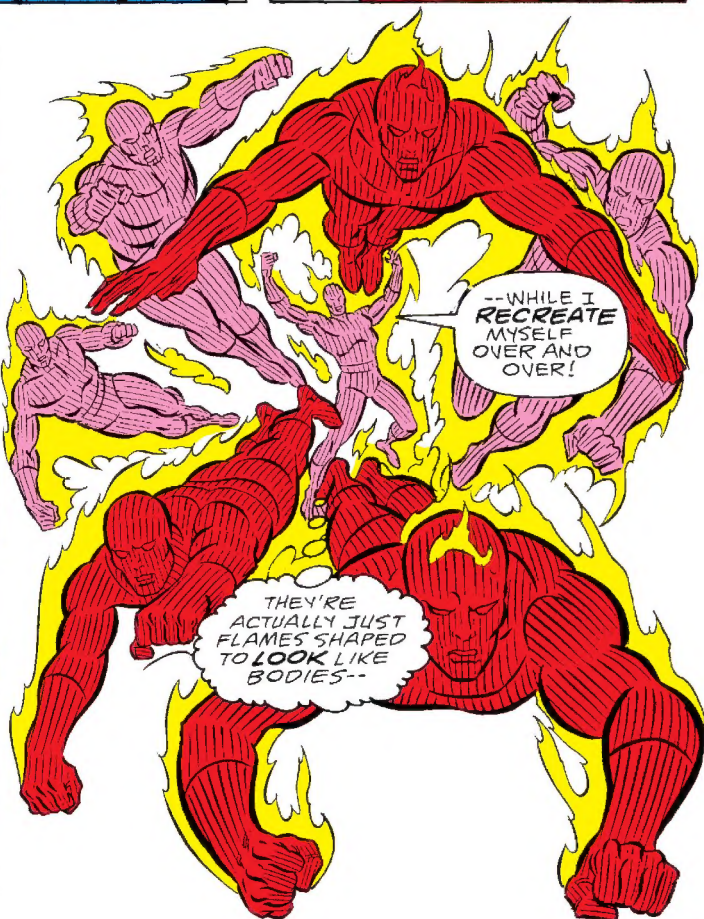
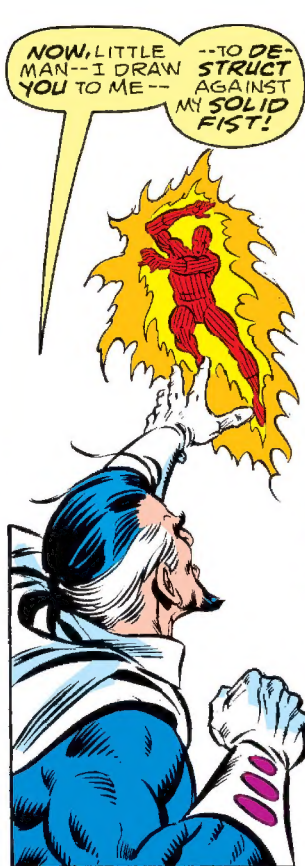


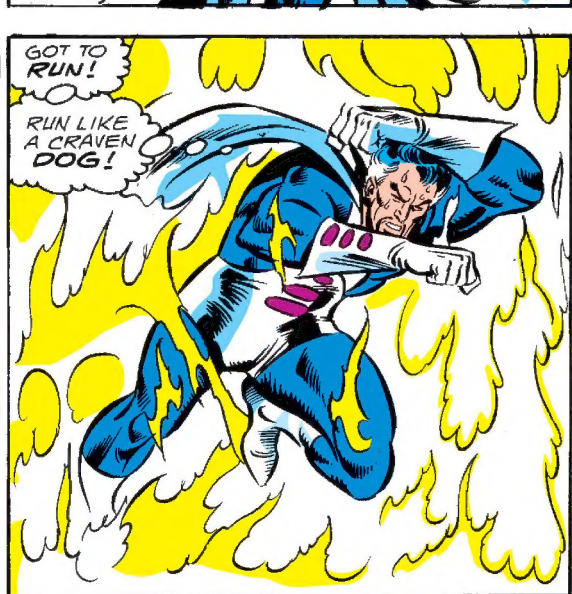
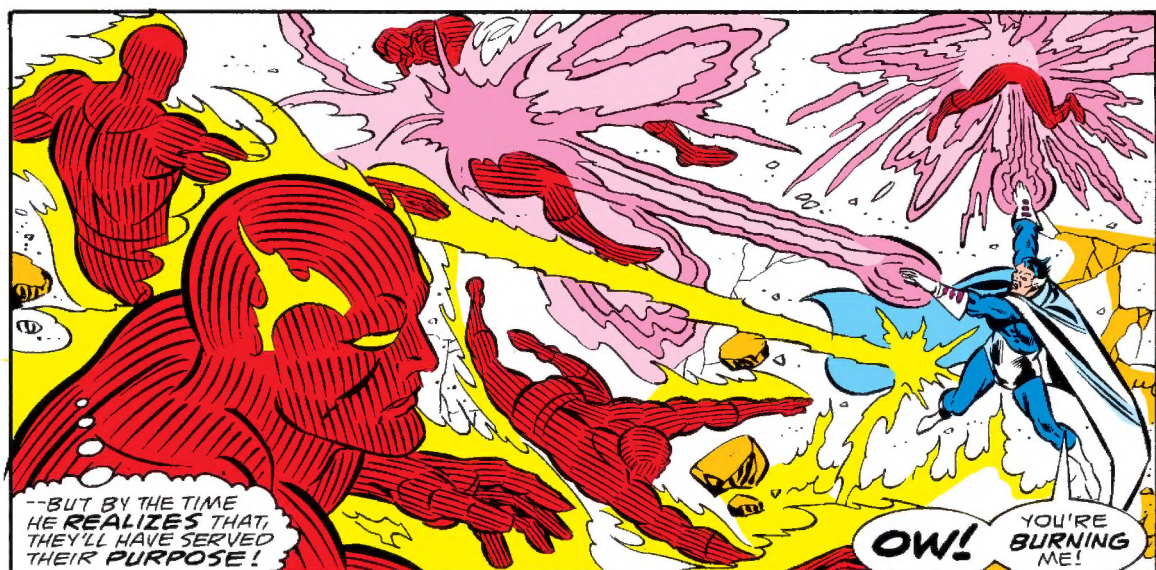
--I DRAW NEW AIR TO ME, LIKE A HIGH-PRESSURE AREA IN A WEATHER SYSTEM!



AND IF I PUSH MY POWER EVEN FARTHER, I CAN DRAW LOTS OF AIR--

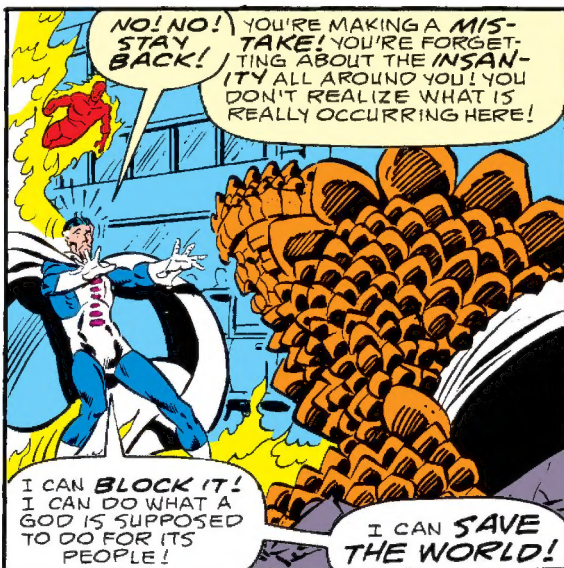
--ENOUGH TO START A GALE!







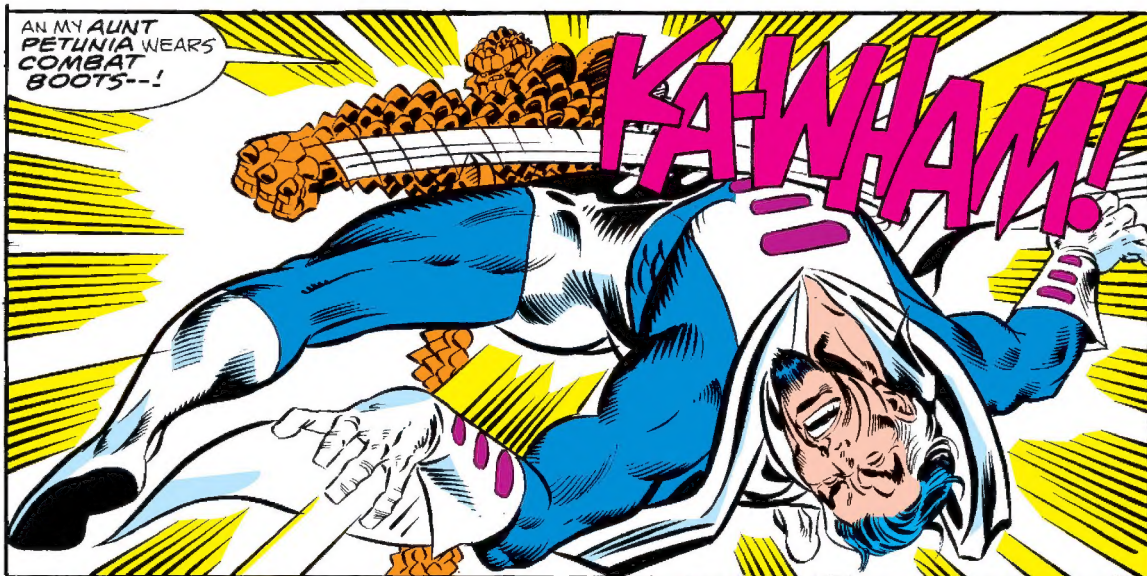
FORGOT ABOUT
KEEPIN' US DOWN
WHILE YA FOUGHT
TORCHIE, DI'N' YA?
LOOKS LIKE HE WUZ
TOO HOT TA
HANDLE, HUH?



NO! NO! YOU'RE MAKING A MIS-
TAKE! YOU'RE FORGET-
TING ABOUT THE INSAN-
ITY ALL AROUND YOU! YOU
DON'T REALIZE WHAT IS
REALLY OCCURRING HERE!

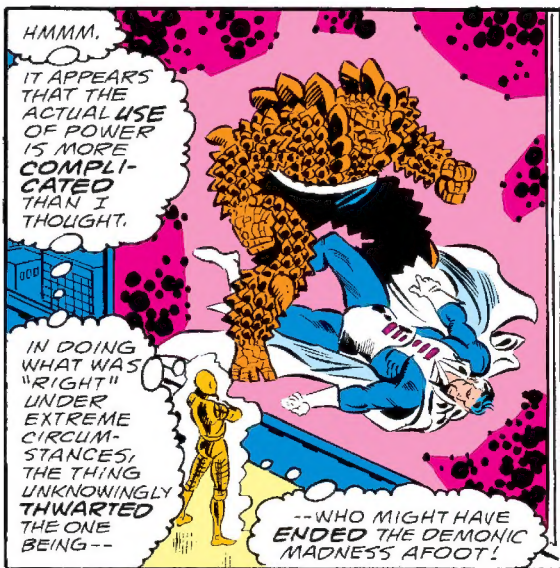
I CAN BLOCK IT!
I CAN DO WHAT A
GOD IS SUPPOSED
TO DO FOR ITS
PEOPLE!

I CAN SAVE
THE WORLD!



AN MY AUNT
PETUNIA WEARS
COMBAT
BOOTS--!

KA-WHAM!



HMMM.

IT APPEARS
THAT THE
ACTUAL USE
OF POWER
IS MORE
COMPLI-
CATED
THAN I
THOUGHT.

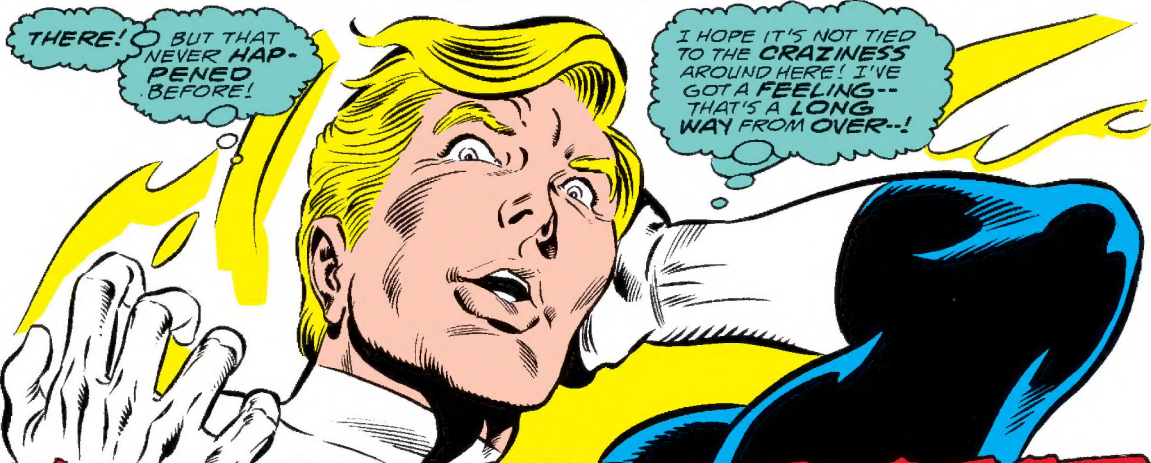
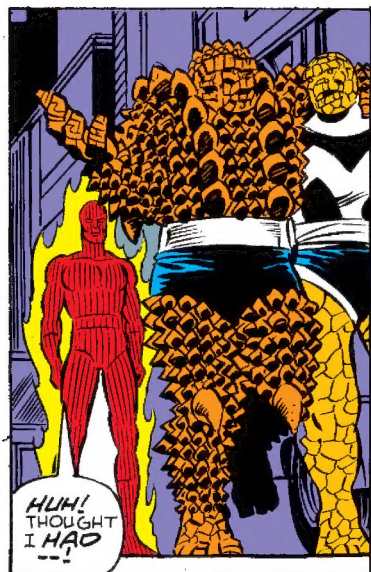
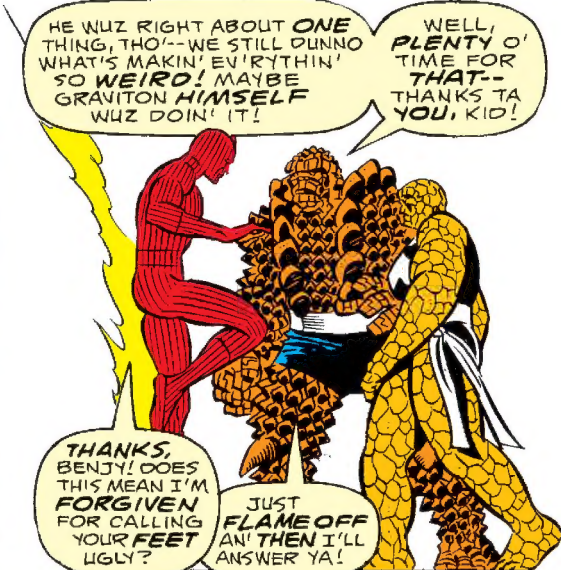
IN DOING
WHAT WAS
"RIGHT"
UNDER
EXTREME
CIRCUM-
STANCES,
THE THING
UNKNOWNLY
THWARTED
THE ONE
BEING--

--WHO MIGHT HAVE
ENDED THE DEMONIC
MADNESS AFOOT!



STILL IF HE HAD
REFUSED TO
ACT, THE CON-
SEQUENCES
MIGHT HAVE
BEEN EQUALLY
DIRE. YET
HE WILL
NEVER KNOW.

PERHAPS THE
WISDOM OF
ACTION OVER
PASSIVITY IS
NOT SO SIMPLE
AS IT APPEARS.
WHAT DOES
THIS MEAN--
FOR MY
PLAN--?



NEXT-TURN UP THE HEAT!
WITH **KANG** AND **MANTIS**!